

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently amended) An image input apparatus comprising:

~~a supply means for section that successively feeding feeds~~ a plurality of manuscript sheets;

~~a reading means for section that sequentially reading reads~~ the plurality of manuscript sheets fed by the supply means section;
and

~~a communication means for section that transferring transfers~~ image data of each of the plurality of manuscript sheets, which is read by the reading means section, to another apparatus, wherein:
the communication means section has a transfer mode in which a periodic data transfer can be assured, and transfers status data in the transfer mode after transferring one-sheet image data in the transfer mode, the status data indicating a state of the image input apparatus.

5. (Currently amended) An image input apparatus comprising:

~~a supply means for section that successively feeding feeds~~ a plurality of manuscript sheets;

~~a reading means for section that sequentially reading reads~~
the plurality of manuscript sheets fed by the supply means section;
and

~~a communication means for section that transferring transfers~~
image data of each of the plurality of manuscript sheets, which is
read by the reading means section, to another apparatus, wherein:

the communication means section has a transfer mode in which
a periodic data transfer can be assured, transfers the image data
of the plurality of manuscript sheets in the transfer mode, and
transfers status data in the transfer mode in intervals between the
image data of the plurality of manuscript sheets to be transferred,
the status data indicating a state of the image input apparatus.

6. (Currently amended) An image input apparatus according to
claim 4, wherein the status data indicates whether
or not there is any manuscript sheet in the supply means section.

7. (Currently amended) An image input apparatus according to
claim 5, wherein the status data indicates whether
or not there is any manuscript sheet in the supply means section.

8. (Currently amended) An image input apparatus comprising:
~~a reading means for section that reading reads~~ a manuscript
image; and

~~a communication means for section that transferring transfers~~
image data, which is read by the reading means section, to another
apparatus, wherein:

the communication means section has a transfer mode in which
a periodic data transfer can be assured, transfers the image data
in the transfer mode, and transfers the same image data as the
transferred image data in a free period of the transfer mode.

9. (Currently amended) An image input apparatus comprising:

~~a reading means for section that reading reads~~ a manuscript
sheet; and

~~a communication means for section that transferring transfers~~
image data, which is read by the reading means section, to another
apparatus, wherein:

the communication means section has a transfer mode in which
a periodic data transfer can be assured, transfers the image data
in the transfer mode, and successively transfers the same image
data as the transferred image data in the transfer mode.

10. (Original) An image input apparatus according to claim 8,
wherein the image data to be transferred is divided into
predetermined units.

11. (Original) An image input apparatus according to claim 9,
wherein the image data to be transferred is divided into
predetermined units.